

vacancy. In 2007 alone, Susan posted over 486 positions for nearly half of the House Member and Committee offices.

Andrew Graeb and Brent Conran are the recipients of the 2008 "Jay Eagen Dedicated Award," renamed by CAO Dan Beard in honor of the House's previous CAO, whose years of unwavering dedication to the organization and the House have become a standard. Andrew Graeb of the CAO Technology Infrastructure Solutions team is being recognized this year for his dedication and energy as the driving force for the successful design and implementation of data networks for a critical Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery (BC/DR) project. Like so many other projects Andrew manages, this one necessitated an exhaustive identification of user requirements from across the House community as well as maintaining proficiency in current networking technologies, while anticipating and expertly evaluating emerging ones. As with most projects of this magnitude, obstacles and challenges arise. Andrew consistently manages and solves those challenges through his blend of technical know-how, customer focus, exceptional interpersonal skills and an infectious positive attitude—all reflective of his dedication to his customers throughout the House community and to his colleagues across the CAO organization.

Brent Conran of CAO Information Systems Security is our second recipient of the "Jay Eagen Dedicated" award. Brent is being acknowledged by the CAO organization for his dedication in managing his team of security engineers, responsible for keeping House production security systems up and running, 24/7. Brent is responsible for making sure the network remains secure from hacker attacks, viruses and spam. By staying current with the latest technology and through his ability to maneuver through CAO systems and processes, he has implemented new firewalls, spyware filtering and intrusion detection upgrades that have guaranteed the ongoing security and integrity of House systems. Brent has an insatiable appetite for keeping up with the newest detection technologies. The House benefits from his dedication to keep the institution's computer network secure and his desire to constantly do things better and quicker, staying ahead of the newer and more creative technology threats.

The CAO's final award recipient for 2008 is being acknowledged with the newest ACE award: the "Green the Capitol Award." This new award recognizes an employee who exhibits a commitment to the Green the Capitol Initiative by seeking innovative, cutting-edge approaches to traditional ways of doing business, promoting resource conservation and supporting an environmentally-sustainable and healthier workplace.

Marie Burns of the Office Supply/House Gift Shop is the recipient of the first CAO "Green the Capitol Award." Marie is being recognized for her commitment to the Green the Capitol Initiative and her effort to promote its goals within the CAO organization and the larger House community. Specifically, Marie has been involved in driving the purchase and availability of more environmentally-friendly products in the Office Supply Store and the House Gift Shop. As an example, by selling only 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper in the Office Supply Store, the House is helping to save 29,400 grown trees. Marie's

personal commitment to the goals of the Green the Capitol Initiative and her leadership in focusing on the sustainability of the House supply chain has been instrumental in raising environmental awareness among her colleagues and the customers she serves.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Monica Barnabae, Nicholas Garner, John Heeb III, Joseph Adams, Angel McFadden, Angel Goldsborough-Lee, Susan Marone, Andrew Graeb, Brent Conran and Marie Burns for their tireless efforts and outstanding service to the Members and staff of the U.S. House of Representatives. I wish this year's group of CAO ACE Award recipients continued success in their endeavors and I look forward to their ongoing contributions in support of the vital work of "the People's House."

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5613, the "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008." I would like to thank my colleagues Congressman JOHN D. DINGELL and Congressman TIM MURPHY for introducing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will make vital strides toward expanding and improving access to healthcare to people in our communities who need it most.

The Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 is critical to keeping the doors open for the patients who use the public hospital systems throughout the country. In my home State of Texas, there was statewide and national support from various stakeholders, the Physicians, Governors, County Judges, Mayors, and many others all encouraging passage of H.R. 5613.

Section 2 of H.R. 5613 amends the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 to extend until April 1, 2009, the moratorium on implementation of a proposed rule, "Medicaid Program; Cost Limit for Providers Operated by Units of Government and Provisions to ensure the integrity of the Federal-State financial partnerships under Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, of the Social Security Act, SSA.

This Act will extend the moratorium until April 1, 2009, on any action by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to restrict Medicaid payments for graduate medical education. It also, amends the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 to extend until April 1, 2009, the moratorium on certain restrictions relating to Medicaid coverage or payment for rehabilitation services or school-based administration and school-based transportation,

This moratorium establishes additional moratoria until April 1, 2009, on specified regulatory actions concerning Medicaid: (1) treatment of optional case management services; (2) outpatient hospital services; and (3) allowable provider taxes.

Section 3 allows appropriated funds to go to the Secretary for the purpose of reducing fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program. It requires annual reports to specified congressional committees on activities funded by such appropriations, allowing for greater accountability to the people.

More importantly, this Act will direct the Secretary to contract with an independent organization to produce a comprehensive report for Congress on the prevalence of such problems: (1) identifying which claims for items and services under Medicaid are not processed through automated data systems; (2) examining the reasons why they are not so processed; and (3) recommending Federal and State actions that can make claims for such items and services more accurate and completely consistent with Medicaid requirements.

The administration has propagated Medicaid rules which would limit children's access to health care.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, President Bush and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, intend to implement seven separate Medicaid rules which would reduce Federal Medicaid spending by \$20 billion over the next 5 years.

Specifically, the regulations would be:

1. Narrowing the range of rehabilitation services covered.
2. Narrowing the range of targeted case management services covered.
3. Limiting the outreach services provided by schools and ending reimbursement for transportation to and from school for children with disabilities.
4. Narrowing the range of allowable provider taxes.
5. Limiting the definition of outpatient hospital services provided.
6. Eliminating Federal Medicaid graduate medical education support
7. Limiting State funding mechanisms, including intergovernmental transfers, and capping public provider reimbursement.

The combined effect of these actions would be disastrous to the health of all children and children's hospitals.

1. Many of these regulations threaten the most vulnerable children—children who require the specialty services that Medicaid provides.

2. Children's hospitals care for the sickest and neediest children in our Nation. On average, half of the care children's hospitals provide is to children covered by Medicaid.

3. Because children's hospitals are so dependent on Medicaid funding, any decrease in Medicaid reimbursement would have a profound impact on children's hospitals' abilities to fulfill their core missions of clinical care, training, and research. By undermining the Medicaid safety net, these rules could threaten the ability of all children to access needed health care services.

H.R. 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008, would place a moratorium until April 1, 2009 on all of these Medicaid regulations. I am proud to cosponsor legislation that will add service before self to our leaders of tomorrow. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.